Lockheed Asked to Pay Up

Huge Tax Bill for the 'CIA Barge'

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A back tax bill of $426,744.78 is being sent to Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. at Sunnyvale, the owners of the big barge in Redwood City that was reportedly used by the CIA for its Russian sub-fishing expedition, San Mateo County assessor Jack Estes said yesterday.

Estes said, covers back taxes for the 1973-74 and 1974-75 tax years at 25 per cent of the barge's market value of some $7.5 million.

Until the story of the barge's role in the CIA salvage effort, the nine-story submersible barge had been taxed at only one per cent of its market value.

The low rate was granted because the barge was supposedly to be used exclusively for oceanic research.

The one per cent research rate meant that Lockheed paid only $8487.65 in property taxes on the barge in 1974-75 and $7961.63 in 1973-74.

But the rate is now the same 25 per cent vessels engaged in salvage operations are charged, Estes noted.

Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. officials are scheduled to meet with him today to talk about the new rate — and their new bill.